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News Service 950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103 (415) 956-3555

Contacts: Jon Newhall Marlene Edmunds Bill Hartman Shelley Buck

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FOR ITEMS USED

(ZNS) THE LAWYER FOR CONVICTED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY SAYS HE HOPES TO SET UP A MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS SO THAT HE CAN PROVIDE BELL WITH MATERIAL (QUOTE) "THAT WILL PROMPT A REOPENING OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATION CASE."

THE ATTORNEY, JAMES LESAR OF WASHINGTON, SAYS HE HAS BEEN COLLECTING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EVIDENCE INDICATING THE F.B.I. WAS (QUOTE) "COMPLETELY DISHONEST" IN ITS HANDLING OF THE 1968 ASSASSINATION CASE.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL STATED LAST WEEK THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH RAY IN PRISON AND TO ASK RAY SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 1968 KILLING. BELL SAID HE IS PUZZLED AS TO HOW RAY -- A CONSISTENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL CRIMINAL -- WAS ABLE TO SLAY THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, AND THEN SPEND MORE THAN $5500 (DOLLARS) TRAVELING UNDER SOPHISTICATED ALIASES TO CANADA AND EUROPE, EVADING A WORLDWIDE DRAGNET FOR MORE THAN TWO MONTHS.

THE F.B.I. WAS NEVER ABLE TO TRACE WHERE RAY'S MONEY CAME FROM.

ATTORNEY LESAR SAYS IT IS HIS "INCLINATION" TO RECOMMEND AGAINST A BELL-RAY MEETING UNTIL ADDITIONAL MATERIAL IN THE CASE CAN BE PRESENTED TO BELL PERSONALLY. LESAR CLAIMS THAT BELL CURRENTLY HAS ONLY (QUOTE) "AN INKLING" OF THE EXTENT OF THE F.B.I.'S MISHANDLING OF THE CASE. SAYS LESAR: (QUOTE) "HE'S SEEN ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG."

LESAR ADDS THAT THERE IS (QUOTE) "NO QUESTION" IN HIS MIND THAT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY IN THE KING CASE, STATING THAT RAY WAS THE "FALL GUY" FOR THE REAL ASSASSINS. HE SAYS HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE MATERIAL HE NOW HAS WILL COMPEL THE COURTS TO ORDER A NEW TRIAL FOR JAMES EARL RAY --ZODIAC (FEB/28/77)

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